

CLAIMS

1. A nucleic acid molecule capable of binding to an envelope glycoprotein of an enveloped virus, and neutralising said virus.
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2. A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 1, wherein said virus is HIV.
3. A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said
- 10 virus is HIV-1.
4. A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the envelope glycoprotein is gp120.
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5. A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is selected from those listed in Table 1.
6. A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in any one of claims 1-5, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises modified nucleotides.
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7. A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 6, wherein said modified bases are modified by any one or more of the following means:
- (i) pyrimidine 6 or 8 position, or purine 5 modification with I, Br, Cl, CH₃ ;
 - 25 (ii) pyrimidine 2 position modification with NH₃;
 - (iii) pyrimidine modifications O⁶-CH₃, N⁶-CH₃ and N²-CH₃;
 - (iv) 2' sugar modifications;
 - (v) 3' and/or 5' capping

8. A method for screening for potential therapeutic targets utilising the nucleic acid molecule as defined in any one of claims 1 to 7.

5 9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said method involves competitive inhibition.

10 10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule as claimed in any one of claims 1-7, optionally together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents or excipients.

11. The use of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in any one of claims 1-7 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of HIV infection.

15 12. A method for the treatment of HIV infection comprising administering an effective amount of at least one nucleic acid molecule as defined in any one of claims 1-7 to a subject in need thereof.